

Message Text

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ORIGIN ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 SCA-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VS, TH

SUBJECT:VIETNAMESE REFUGEES N THAILAND: DIPLOMATS

REF: BANGKOK 8038

1. AS EMBASSY CAN WELL IMAGINE, PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS IN THIRD COUNTRIES IS SIGNIFICANT HEADACHE FOR ALL CONCERNED. THOSE IN THAILAND ARE COMPLICATED BY PRESENCE SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF SENIOR GVN OFFICIALS AND FAMILIES. NEVERTHELESS WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONGRESS TO INSURE THAT VIETNAMESE WHO ARE SAFELY OUT OF SVN BY THEIR OWN MEANS MAKE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO GET THIRD COUNTRY OR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE. AS EXAMPLE, GVN CONSULATE GENERAL'S STAFF IN NEW DELHI WAS GIVEN FIVE DAYS TO DEPART INDIA BY GOI, AND APPARENTLY FELT SOME INTIMIDATION BY NORTH VIETNAMESE. THEY REQUESTED ASYLUM IN US AND WERE TOLD THAT THEY MUST ALL FIRST MAKE DETERMINED EFFORT TO SEEK ASSISTANCE OF APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, OR TO SEEK

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ACCOMODATIONS ELSEWHERE. THE VIETNAMESE CONSUL GENERAL

MADE ROUNDS OF OTHER EMBASSIES SEEKING ASYLUM FOR HIS MISSION STAFF WITH RESULTS THAT OF TWENTY-FOUR VIETNAMESE IN NEW DELHI, ALL BUT FOUR WERE GRANTED ADMISSION TO CANADA, ITALY, FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA.

2. REMAINDER HAVE BEEN GRANTED PAROLE INTO US UNDER

SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL AUTHORITY.

3. THERE IS NO AUTHORIZATION AT THIS TIME FOR BLANKET PAROLE OF VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS IN THIRD COUNTRIES, AND SUCH DIPLOMATS SHOULD NOT BE ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH AUTHORIZATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING. ACCORDINGLY, VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL WILL ONLY BE CONSIDERED FOR PAROLE ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS WHEN IT IS CLEARLY DOCUMENTED THAT ALL OTHER MEANS OF ASSISTANCE ARE EXHAUSTED. THIS INCLUDES ASSISTANCE OF UNHCR, ICRC, ICEM, THIRD COUNTRIES, AND ALL NORMAL CHANNELS OF IMMIGRATION.

4. IT IS THEREFORE IN BEST INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED TO CLEARLY INDICATE TO GVN DIPLOMATS THAT THEY PURSUE ABOVE COURSE OF ACTION WITHOUT DELAY RATHER THAN WAITING UPON USG TO TAKE ACTION.

5. THERE IS NO RPT NO BLANKET AUTHORITY FOR EMBASSY TO BEGIN TRANSPORTING VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS OUT OF THAILAND TO ANY DESTINATION. SUCH AUTHORIZATION CAN BE CONSIDERED BY DEPARTMENT ONLY AFTER ALL OTHER EFFORTS TO SEEK ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN PROVED UNPRODUCTIVE. KISSINGER

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